

Timpanogos volunteers are tops at bailing out climbers in trouble

By Kenneth S. Rogerson
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Volunteerism is not dead — it's alive and well, and living on Mount Timpanogos.

The Timpanogos Emergency Rescue Team (TERT), organized in 1983, is a group of 50 to 60 people from all walks of life who are also emergency medical technicians, ham radio operators or mountain climbers.

Four to eight of them ascend the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness Area every weekend during the summer to aid hikers and campers who find themselves in trouble.

"There is nothing like us in the United States," said Glen Meyer, TERT director. "And, thanks to the Uinta National Forest Service, we are well-known throughout the country."

TERT recently was nominated by the Forest Service as the volunteer organization of the year in the United States.

"We didn't quite win," Meyer said. But he did receive a letter from President Bush thanking the group for its work and contributions.

Because TERT is a volunteer, non-profit organization, a lot of its work is teaching people how to act in a wilderness area so its services will not be needed.

"Most of our job is answering questions," said Colleen Ford, an emergency medical technician and a TERT team director.

"We see a lot of minor lacerations and some people get hurt sliding



PHOTOGRAPHY/ STUART W. JOHNSON

Vern Cole, left, Rebecca Brighton, Kay Denton, Glen Meyer and Colleen Ford enjoy being part of the TERT team.

down the snow field," she said. The No. 1 thing the TERT team treats is dehydration.

Some people don't understand that Timpanogos is really a wilderness area, Ford said. So they aren't prepared for the nearly 17-mile round-trip hike.

Meyer said he enjoys working with TERT because, for him, it is the "Big Excuse." "I get out of the house and I have the chance to help other people," he said.

Meyer remembers one experience on the mountain with a family of seven who was caught in a storm.

They weren't dressed properly and they had to take refuge in a log shelter about three miles from the summit, he said. "When we found them, the parents had hypothermia and were a little delirious. The children weren't much better off."

Meyer said he will never forget the look of gratitude on their faces.

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Mt. Timpanogos sports its first dusting

least for a few hours before the sun melted it. The peak is seen from the

Utah County side. Cool weather is also forecast for Friday in this area.

Snow for awhile

Herald Photo/Trent Nelson

